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Afternoon Brief No. 5

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CHAVEZ RESIGNS IN VENEZUELA, WILL FACE TRIAL

- (U) President Chavez resigned at a military base in Caracas. He will be tried for crimes against the nation. The Vice President also resigned. The current and former Defense Ministers were taken into custody. *(Watch/Embassy Caracas telcon)*
- (U) Association of Venezuelan Chambers of Commerce President Pedro Carmona Estanga will serve as head of the transitional government. *(Watch/Embassy Caracas telcon)*
- (U) Nineteen people were killed and 90 injured in the April 11 violence. *(Watch/Embassy Caracas telcon)*

MIDEAST UPDATE

- (U) UNSYG Annan told the UN Human Rights Commission that an international force should be dispatched to keep peace between Palestinians and Israelis. *(Reuters)*
- (U) The bodies of Palestinians killed in Jenin were removed by the IDF. The IDF said bodies identified as civilian will be sent to a hospital; those of suspected militants will be buried at a GOI gravesite reserved for suspected terrorists. Jenin was closed to the media. *(Watch/ConGen Jerusalem telcon)*
- (U) A senior member of Islamic Jihad, Sheikh Ali Sfour, surrendered to IDF troops in a Jenin refugee camp. *(Watch/Embassy Tel Aviv telcon)*
- (U) An Israeli was killed when a Palestinian gunman fired near the Erez Crossing in northern the Gaza Strip. The gunman was killed. *(Watch/Embassy Tel Aviv telcon)*

AMCIT FAMILY AMONG CASUALTIES IN PHILIPPINE FERRY BLAZE

(U) An Amcit woman and her child were among 23 killed when a ferry caught fire in the Philippines. Another child was missing; two Amcits injured. *(Watch/Embassy Manila telcon)*

PEARL KIDNAPPING TRIAL ADJOURNED AGAIN

(U) The trial of four suspects in the Pearl kidnapping was adjourned again to allow the defense more time to study evidence. *(Watch/ConGen Karachi telcon)*

RUSSIAN HELIBORNE FORCE OCCUPIES GEORGIAN TERRITORY

(C) Georgian Minister of Defense Tevzadze said the platoon-sized Russian force must withdraw or it will be thrown out. *(Watch/Embassy Tbilisi telcon)*

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